



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

1843.

No. 58.

November 23, 1843.

SIR JOHN WILLIAM LUBBOCK, Bart., Vice-President and
Treasurer, in the Chair.

It was stated from the Chair that in consequence of the sudden and lamented death of Mr. Robertson, the late Assistant Secretary, which happened on the 13th instant, the meeting which was to have been held on the 16th did not take place.

The Rev. David Laing was balloted for and duly elected a Fellow of the Society

Mr. Bowman, Mr. Dollond, Mr. Owen, Dr. Pereira and Mr. Walker, were by ballot elected Auditors of the Treasurer's accounts on the part of the Society.

The following papers were read, viz.—

1. "Magnetic Term Observations at Prague, for May, June, July and August, 1843." By Professor Kreil. Communicated by S. Hunter Christie, Sec. R.S., &c.

2. "Variations de la Déclinaison et Intensité Magnétique observées à Milan le 26 et 27 Mai, le 21 et 22 Juin, le 19 et 20 Juillet, le 25 et 26 Août, le 20 et 21 Septembre, le 18 et 19 Octobre, 1843." By Sig. F. Carlini, For. Mem. R.S.

3. "An Account of a remarkably large and luminous Spot in the Sea." By Captain F. Eardley Wilmot, F.R.S. With remarks on the water taken thence: in a letter to S. H. Christie, Sec. R.S., from Lieut. Manley Dixon, R.A.

The letter is as follows:—

DEAR SIR,

Woolwich, October 6th, 1843.

Captain F. Eardley Wilmot, on his voyage home from the Cape of Good Hope in the spring of this year, observed one night a remarkable, though not very uncommon appearance of the sea. This was a large and very luminous spot, which was clearly defined by a sharp edge. He thus describes the appearance, and also the steps

which he took to obtain some of the water for the purpose of bringing it home to England and submitting it to a chemical test.

"The sea was covered with so brilliant a surface of silver light that we could see to read, and the shadows of ropes, &c. were strongly marked. We sailed through it for about four hours. In one place it had an edge; and we sailed out of it for nearly half an hour, when we again entered it as abruptly, and finally left it, when the edge of the illuminated part was strongly defined. The water was taken up in a clean bucket and put into a carefully cleaned bottle; about 10° north latitude."

As Captain Wilmot's time in England was limited, he left the bottle of sea water with me, and I took the first opportunity of showing it to Dr. Faraday, who took it to London with him, and wrote me a note, of which the following is a copy.

"Royal Institution, September 25th, 1843.

"DEAR SIR,—I have examined the water, and it is peculiar in some points. It contained much sulphuretted hydrogen, and also a portion of solid deposit, which was about one half sulphur and the other half organic matter. There has no doubt been considerable change in the contents of the water, and I cannot now recognise organic forms; but the presence of the animal matter, the sulphur, and the sulphuretted hydrogen, all agree with the idea that the water, when taken up, was rich in animals or animalculæ.

"I am, Sir, yours very truly,

"*Lieut. Dixon, R.N.,*
&c., &c."

"M. FARADAY."

I remain, Sir, yours very truly,

Professor Christie,
Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

W. MANLEY DIXON.

November 30, 1843.

At the Anniversary Meeting,

The MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON, President, in the Chair.

Dr. Robert Lee, on the part of the Auditors of the Treasurer's Accounts, reported, that the total receipts during the last year, inclusive of a balance of 1143*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, carried from the account of the preceding year, amounted to 4454*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*; and that the total payments in the same period amounted to 2460*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of 1994*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

The thanks of the Meeting were given to the Auditors for the trouble they have taken in examining the Treasurer's Accounts.

The thanks of the Meeting were given to the Treasurer.

The Secretary then read the following lists of deceased Fellows